Attack on Journalists and Non-Journalists

235. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of attack on Journalists and non-Journalists of newspaper establishments and on the staff of news agencies occurred in various parts of the country during the last two years indicating the place, nature of incidence and reasons for the same;

(b) what remedial steps Governments have been taken to prevent such incidents and the instructions issued to various State Governments to stop the occurrence of such physical assaults; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue a white paper of these incidents and Government's policy on this important matter guaranteeing safety of media persons so essential for preservation of democratic values and freedom of press ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) The information is being obtained from the State Governments/UTs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) With a view that the journalists are able to discharge their professional duties effectively and in an independent manner, the State Governments have, from time to time, been advised to ensure prompt registration and investigation of cases relating to attack on journalists and to take action against erring officials.

Foreigners' Activities in North Eastern States

236. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of tile activities of foreign nationals in North Eastern States of the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the nationalities of such foreigners ; and

(c) the measures Government have taken or propose to take to repatriate them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Entry of foreign nationals in the North East is governed by Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order 1958 and Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order, 1963. No foreign national can enter or stay there without obtaining a Restricted/Protected area permit from the competent authority. So far, the Restricted/Protected area permit system has been working satisfactorily. However, the cases ol two British nationals entering into Nagaland in November, 1991 without the required permit has come to notice. During their stay in Nagaland they met several underground activists and collected evidence on the alleged 'human rights violations'. They were arrested by the security forces on 30-1-1992 under the National Security Act and a case registered against them.

(c) The question of their repatriation does not arise at this stage, as the matter is sub-judice.

237. *[Transferred to the 1th May,* VTTB]

Conference of Chief Ministers of Terrorist Affected States

238. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference of the Chief Ministers of the terrorist affected States was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the Chief Ministers who participated in the conference; and